

TO: Commuter Connections Subcommittee Members
FROM: Nicholas Ramfos
Director, Commuter Connections
SUBJECT: Responses to Comments on FY 2009 Draft Placement Rate Report
DATE: May 8, 2009

Below are responses to the comments received from Commuter Connections members on the draft FY 2009 Placement Rate Study Report:

1. **Comment:** When this project was presented to the Commuter Connections Subcommittee on March 17, a number of charts and tables that depicted key findings were used as the basis of the presentation. In attempting to follow the consultant's presentation, many of these figures were not in the report itself, but rather represented summary information that was deemed significant to present as summary data. If these figures truly represent key summaries of the project, then the suggestion is that they be incorporated into the Executive Summary.

Response: The presentation was checked and there was not anything that wasn't covered somewhere in the report. In a few cases the charts looked different and in one case the consultant used a figure in the presentation and a table in the report. Other than that, we are not clear on what else was missing.

2. **Comment:** The Survey Background slide used in the March 17 presentation reported a 95%± 3.4% confidence level for the 700 surveys. This statistic is not in the draft report.

As I understand it, the confidence level is related (perhaps among other things) to the number of responses to a specific question. Therefore, the range identified above (±3.4%) is accurate when 700 responses are available to a specific question. However, if fewer responses are available, the 95% confidence range would be greater than 3.4%. If this understanding is correct, then two adjustments to the report should be considered:

- A statement should be included explaining this facet of statistical confidence, and
- Instances in the report where responses are compared and conclusions drawn (e.g. "the drive alone % has increased") should be carefully examined with respect to these confidence levels to ensure that such conclusions are statistically valid.

(If my understanding is incorrect, then obviously please disregard this comment!)

Response: Language was added to the report about this on page 3, 2nd paragraph.